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prices are a thing which neither workmen nor employers can decide upon without consulting consumers. Within certain narrow limits it is true, he admits, prices may be governed by the wages paid, but it is a truth which strike leaders and other agitators for a minimum wage should not lose sight of, that the price of goods produced by one part of the population depends, after all, less upon the wishes of the producers than upon the willingness of that larger portion of the population which consume the goods. Strike leaders and philanthropists, moreover, have in the niggardliness of nature an even more insurmountable barrier to their wishes than the will of the consuming public. The minimum standard of humane living is not a question, in fact, with which we need concern ourselves, for it "is determined, and is necessarily determined by the maximum which *a man who pays no rent can extract by his own labor from the worst soil in cultivation.*" Notwithstanding the clearness and force with which this statement is made and supported, it is doubtful if it will be accepted by those for whom it is chiefly intended. Agitators of a socialistic turn will still be unable to see why, because a man is compelled to occupy a piece of no rent land, the return for his labor shall be no greater than that he can unaided extract from it. The very essence of the socialistic contention is that such a person is entitled to a share in the advantage which comes from there being better lands and better opportunities in the community from which he is now shut out. But Mr. Mallock puts his case with his usual air of finality and that will no doubt carry conviction where his arguments do not.

On the points dealt with above the author's views are sufficiently indicated. In general, it may be added, he seems quite satisfied with the progress the masses are making from what may at one time have been very deplorable conditions. He does not believe that an economic heaven is to be reached at a single bound, and on the whole our progress in that direction is quite as rapid as is compatible with our dignity and decorum.

G. O. VIRTUE.

The Economic History of Virginia in the Seventeenth Century. By PHILIP ALEXANDER BRUCE. New York: Macmillan & Co., 1896. 8vo. 2 volumes, pp. xix+634 and vi+647.

THIS is a serious work, based on wide research among original materials, which has been carried through in a thoroughly conscientious

tious manner. It embraces a bibliography, a meagre outline of contents, a good index, and excellent footnotes, copious and full. The style is lucid and interesting, making the literary form more attractive than any of the books which have appeared in this important department of modern historical knowledge. Too much space and detail is devoted to aboriginal Indian life and its ways of living. The account is entertaining in itself, but hardly touches the development of Virginia. The same might be said of other topics, which expand too easily. But those who have worked in this sphere of investigation know that the abundant stores of virgin material make a certain redundancy almost unavoidable.

Mr. Bruce clearly shows that the plantation, and life on the plantation directed by the culture of tobacco, of necessity controlled the whole social development of Virginia. Probably of tropical origin, the plant was cultivated and much enjoyed by the aborigines when the colonists landed. Much desired for exportation to England, it was planted by the colonists, and as soon as 1619 it was driving out corn and other necessary food from the primitive agriculture. "One man could provide grain sufficient for five men and apparel for two, by the profit which he would derive from the sale of his tobacco" (Vol. I, p. 252). In other words, two active laborers could produce a crop then worth fifty pounds sterling in England. James and Charles I. interfered with the colonial culture and export by all sorts of administrative expedients. It does not appear that they controlled it, for Virginia largely shipped tobacco to Holland as early as 1627 (*ibid.*, p. 290) and continued it through the century. It was first thrown together in a heap for curing, but in seven years one Lambert strung the leaves on a line, "this being the first step in the evolution" "of the tobacco stick so well known." Tobacco-houses were introduced before the massacre of 1622. The forest was cleared and tobacco exhausted the soil for its particular nurture after a few years. Indian corn succeeded it and became an article of export to New England and the West Indies. About 1628 the planters discovered that wheat and other English grains would do better, and by 1643 wheat became an important export. But this rotation was not regular or general. Many tobacco fields relapsed into coarse grasses and finally into forest. Tobacco seemed to involve large plantations almost of necessity. This tendency reacted on the social system. Capable men became overseers and superior employees, rather than tenants or small landhold-

ers (Vol. I, p. 411). Tobacco was about the only available currency, and was even more current than Indian corn and other commodities in New England. The detailed uses of this currency are very curious and entertaining.

Mr. Bruce establishes that the Navigation Acts injured Virginia in the seventeenth century (Vol. I, p. 361). It has been customary to assert the same of New England. This shows the need of better comprehension of economic forces in history. The colonies were differently situated and yet more differently developed. The Virginian planter fancied he commanded the world, because he could ship one desirable export from his own wharf on an interior river to a foreign market. Really his one export was controlled by the British kingdom in its own interest. Prices fluctuated accordingly and sometimes disastrously. Irregular trade, at first, carried tobacco to Holland, but our author shows that the Acts were fairly well enforced, and they finally constrained agricultural life in Virginia. On the other hand, New England, with her poor soil, got a better return for her labor. Indian corn and pork supported the fishermen on the banks of Newfoundland. Homespun garments made by the women at home clothed lumbermen and shipbuilders, while vessels were being constructed on every inland stream which could float them. Cargoes of fish, pipe staves, and other products went to the West Indies, the Mediterranean or other ports. The cargo and finally the vessel was sold in the best market, returning supplies and increase of capital to further diversify industry at home. This was before centers of manufacturing industry existed, and the New England farmstead made its own bill of exchange in effect as surely as Rothschild and Morgan make theirs today. The lack of local commerce constrained the industry and domestic development of the community. The failure to create any towns was extraordinary. These conditions limited the growth of Virginia in the seventeenth century, and later lowered her relative position among the states.

The tenure of land tended in the same direction. It was granted by the London Company on the usual terms given to colonial adventurers; then it was given out, secondly, to recompense meritorious service, to ministers of the church, officers of state and justice, physicians and others. But the most effective factor in the distribution of land was in the head right, which was in operation by 1618. By this every shareholder transporting an emigrant, free or bond, acquired a

claim to fifty acres, if the emigrant remained three years. In 1621 there were few estates of 1000 acres; within a decade there were many of 10,000 acres. While the transfers, 1634-1650, averaged 446 acres, in the latter half of the century they increased to 674 acres. The final result was a semi-feudal distribution of land and it engraved itself on the social system.

We shall never know how much Lords Say and Brook and their kind helped our country by staying away from New England. We know that the Dutch patroon system hampered New York for two centuries: that all proprietary arrangements hindered the Middle states. All the decaying feudal apparatus applied to the land in Virginia made a convenient stock on which slavery could engraft itself.

Mr. Bruce gives full and interesting accounts of the working of agriculture and the labor system based upon it. As he is opposing old prejudices, he sometimes strains his argument too far in trying to establish that slavery made no great difference in the social system, ". . . the labor system of white servants as unbroken as if it had been the labor system of slaves. The economic results were substantially the same; the moral and social influences of both were in many respects exactly similar" (Vol. II, p. 570). A free society and a bonded society differ. They differ essentially; for neither master nor slave is the equivalent of a free man.

But our author is correct in substance and in his main contention, that tobacco and the feudal tendency of the land gave the controlling direction to colonial Virginia, just as cotton shaped the destinies of the Southern states in the nineteenth century. Slavery was only an enormous incident, an accident involving tremendous consequences.

No patriotic American can read this history without emotion and a feeling of sympathy for the better elements of that society, which has passed away. Yankee — from a term of reproach — has come to represent a type of character which has largely influenced the destinies of the United States. The genius of adaptability growing out of New England life, the personal control of circumstance and the staying power under defeat, has made of the New Englander a great constituent factor in the nation. But it was the large political capacity of the Virginians, the proud love of liberty ingrained in those slave-owners, which most largely shaped the destinies of the rising republic.

Equipped with the best scholarly resources of our new time, Mr. Bruce has brought a fine tribute to modern history. Virginians may well study the social development of the old days, in working out their future under its new and prescribed conditions.

WM. B. WEEDEN.

Cours élémentaire de statistique administrative. Élaboration des statistiques—organisation des bureaux de statistique—éléments de démographie. By DR. JACQUES BERTILLON. Paris : Société d'éditions scientifiques, 1895. 8vo. pp. iii + 599.

THE recent almost simultaneous contribution to the literature of statistics by Dr. von Mayr in Germany, Professor Mayo-Smith in the United States, and in the present work by Dr. Bertillon in France gives evidence of the growing estimation in which the science of statistics is held. The feature of all of these works is that they are almost exclusively devoted to a consideration of the science or technique of statistical work rather than to a compilation or analysis of statistical material.

Probably the most hopeful feature of this activity is the recognition of the fact that the direction of statistical work requires not only a high, but a quite technical training, in order to produce the best results. Dr. Bertillon's work is an especially striking illustration of this fact. In 1889 the General Statistical Council of France recommended that all candidates for certain offices in the administrative departments whose duties pertained to the preparation of reports be examined on the general principles of statistical science as a part of their examination for appointment or promotion. This recommendation was adopted by the government, and in consequence the council was directed to prepare a syllabus of points that should be covered by the examination. It was to supply a work giving the information called for by this program that Dr. Bertillon undertook the preparation of the present volume. It is as a text-book, then, that he asks his work to be considered.

The work is divided into five distinct parts: I. Generalities, including the history of statistics; II. The Technique of Statistics; III. Methods of Using Statistical Material; IV. The Organization of Statistical Bureaus in France and Other Countries; and V. The Elements of Demography.